Ban on using Port Facilities by Private Kerosene Importers

*539. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will be Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether is is a fact that the private marketeers importing kerosene have been banned from using port facilities of Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the said ban is proposed to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Illegal Slaughter of Animals in Ghaziabad

*540. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale Illegal slaughter of animals in and around Ghaziabad, as reported in the 'Times of India' dated 15th June, 1998;

(b) whether the blood of these slaughtered animals shows up in gutters and even in drinking water;

(c) whether in addition to this, the slaughter of animals attracts big birds which prove hazardous for planes; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Slaughter of animils is a state subject. The Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad has intimated that a few cases of illegal slaughtering of large animals have been reported in and around Ghaziabad and First Information Reports on 6th March, 1998 and 18th June, 1998 have been lodged by the Municipal CorporationAughorities in Police Station, Sahibabad for illegal slaughtering of animals. The Corporation has also intimated that blood of slaughtered animals has not shown up in gutters or in drinking water.

(c) The carcasses of dead animals and offals of large slaughtered animils attract bigar birds which prove hazardous to aircrafts.

(d) Tenders for the establishment of a Carcass Utilisation Plant with financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India have been finalised by the Nager Nigam, Ghaziabad. The work on the Project is likely to commence in the near future. This Ministry is also actively examining, in consultation with the State Government, and the Nagar Nigam, a proposal for establishing a Modern slaugherhouse at Ghaziabad during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

A Solid Waste Treatment Plant is also proposed to be established near Ghaziabad with the assistance of the Central Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Sale of Spurious Fertilisers

3986. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sale of spurious fertilisers is rampant in various parts of the country and specially in Bihar; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the factual position in this regard and if so, the details thereof and what are the names of such dealers/ manufacturers and the action taken against each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The State Government are primarily responsible for implementaion of the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985, intended to ensure that only fertiliser meeting the standards of quality laid down in the order is sold in the country. While some cases of sale of non-standard (including spurious) fertilisers are reported from different parts of the country, including Bihar, the quantity of fertilisers involved in such cases is very small, taking into account, the quantity of 360 lakh tonnes of fertilisers consumed in the country in 1997-98. During 1996-97, 77028 number of samples were analysed in different fertiliser testing laboratories in the country out of which 5.52% of the samples were found

to have deviations from specifications with regard to certain parameters. Depending upon the nature and extent of deviations from the specifications, State Governments who are empowered to take action under penal provisions of the ECA, 1955, took various actions like giving warning, cancellation of dealer's registration certificate, levying of penalty and launching prosecutions. During 1996-97, 220 prosecutions were launched, two convictions were secured, three cases are pending in Courts of Law and 352 cases were pending for initiating action at the end of that period.

Livestock Census in Maharashtra

3987. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether livestock census has recentrly been conducted in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what is the present population of cattle particularly those of milching ones;

(b) what is the status of cross breed cattle in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the number and breed of livestock in the State by the Central and State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Livestock Census is undertaken after every five years. The work of Quinquennial Livestock Census conducted in 1997 is being processed.

(c) As per 1992 Livestock Census, the Population of miliching and crossbred cattle in Maharashtra is as below:

(Nos. in thousand)

Crossbred	Indigenous		Total
Milching cattle	826	4441	5267
Total cattel	1773	15673	17446

(d) To improve the number and breed of livestock in the State, a numbe of Central/ State Government programmes/schemes are being implemented in the state. The important schemes are as follows:—

(i) Extension of Frozen Semen Technology and Progeny Testing Programme.

(ii) National Bull Production programme.

(iii) Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward areas.

(iv) Special Livestock Breeding Programme.

Export of Agricultural Products

3988. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost export of certain agricultural products and farm goods;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the targets set for export of agro-products during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The policy of the government to permit exports of agricultural products and farm goods is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

(b) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance exports of agricultural products and farm include:—

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation to tenchical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/ growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of precooling/cold storage facilities and integrated postharvest handling systems (pack houses).